CLAIMS

[1] A steam generating device comprising:

(a) a barrel shape pot having a flat, elongate horizontal cross section;

(b) a heater arranged in a bottom part of the pot; and

(c) a steam suction portion that extends, above the pot, in a direction in which the steam suction portion crosses an axis line of the pot, and that occupies a space having a flat vertical cross-sectional shape.

[2] The steam generating device of claim 1, wherein

the heater is built with a sheath heater that is immersed in water inside the pot.

[3] The steam generating device of claim 1, wherein

the steam suction portion is built with a plurality of steam suction ejectors that are each formed to penetrate the pot from one flat side to an opposite flat side.

[4] The steam generating device of claim 3, wherein

the plurality of steam suction ejectors are arranged side by side at a same level.

[5] A steam cooking apparatus comprising:

(a) a heating chamber in which food is placed;

(b) an outer circulation passage through which gas inside the heating chamber is sucked in and is then returned to the heating chamber; and

(c) the steam generating device of one of claims 1 to 4 that feeds steam, through the steam suction portion, to the outer circulation passage.

[6] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the steam generating device is the steam generating device of claim 3, and

the outer circulation passage divides into a plurality of paths through the corresponding steam suction ejectors.

[7] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the steam generating device is the steam generating device of claim 4, and

the outer circulation passage divides into a plurality of paths through the corresponding steam suction ejectors.

[8] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the steam generating device is arranged with one flat side of the pot parallel to a side wall of the heating chamber.

[9] The steam cooking apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the outer circulation passage is connected to a sub-cavity provided adjacent to the heating chamber, and

the steam flowing through the outer circulation passage into the sub-cavity is heated by heating means provided in the sub-cavity, and is then fed to the heating chamber.